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International Affairs

Paper Underlines Need To Combat West Media 'Onslaught'

NC1311112091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Oct 91
pp 3, 4

[Hasan Qorbani article: "Satellites and Our Mission"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Satellites, transmitters, receivers, and massive telecommunications equipment which the West is using to the maximum, extensive international news networks, news agencies, film-making and propaganda-disseminating companies, and numerous other information agencies are instruments the West utilizes in its cultural onslaught and the transmutation of nations.

Progress in the science of technology has systematically given the monopoly on information to just a few information networks based in the West. The deluge of Western information and its channelling are the main factors ultimately bending minds to believe that the culture they crave is this international Western one. [passage omitted]

What should be done to counteract the onslaught of Western information? Perhaps most powers controlling mass communication means believe that every country should have a position and role in the international communications village, thinking that a cultural pool transferring information is the means to a society's cultural permanence. [passage omitted]

In the world of the 21st century the Islamic Republic of Iran's presence in international circles and organizations seems mandatory, demanding intensive planning for information, according to which Iranian mass communication will play the foremost role in obtaining and disseminating information.

Glancing at Iranian mass communication programs, radio and television (Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran), which have a fundamental role in combating the foreign cultural onslaught, we perceive that Iran should not merely remain an international communications village consumer. The information supplied by foreign radio and television networks should be no more comprehensive and satisfying than that provided by our domestic mass media, especially the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our national news agency.

This satisfying by foreign news network programs is in the long run an effort to impose their own views on the audience and hatch plots to influence its thinking—a major alert for Iranian mass communications officials.

Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran newscasts should not reach their audience as repetitive cliches. [preceding word in English] If they do not contain information the listener will resort to news sources which answer his needs.

In Voice and Vision [IRIB] external services programs, as well as stale news, most of the news sections transmitting to enthusiasts of the Islamic Revolution in Europe repeat the same news at least three times during a 24-hour period. An Iranian enthusiast in Madrid awaits news from one of the transmitters (radios): Will the Iranian radio which repeats the same news three times a day be more successful and effective or the news networks providing swiftest information in fresh, new formats?

If we do not equate providing information with transmitting political news we will see how far we lag presenting scientific, cultural, and economic news in our mass media. Inability to send intensive and timely information to all fields will only lose Iranian mass media's audience. Appropriate cultural and entertainment programs conforming to the Iranian people's religious and cultural values are most important for preparing the country's information system to combat foreign news and culture's assault.

Repeating programs, neglecting to use psychology, and cursorily scanning historical and social information do not provide addressees the necessary information.

Imagine a family happy and exhilarated at the start to their weekend one Friday. How will a tragic film, such as "chrysanthemums," [not further identified] affect family morale? The trend among Iranian families to watch videos sounds a danger knell.

Iran's rich culture, strong financial resources, and seasoned experts—with a precise and calculated program—can act effectively in the international mass communications village. Iran's presence can only be harmless if these strategies are borne in mind:

1. The transfer and presentation of domestic information in all fields is extensive and new. If domestic media satisfy the people in their quest for news they will never turn to foreign news networks.
2. Utilization of all technological resources and cooperation with independent countries to establish a regional or more extensive communications network will help us attain comprehensive and unadulterated information.

Central Bank Governor Departs for SEANZA Meeting in Tokyo

LD2111130991 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT
21 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli heading a delegation left here for Japan Wednesday night to take part in the 19th meeting of the "SEANZA" council of governors to be held in Tokyo Friday.

SEANZA, established in 1956, stands for Southeast Asia, New Zealand and Australia.

The meeting is to be chaired by the host country, Japan, and topics including economic conditions in the member

countries and a possible joint training project organized by SEANZA members will be discussed.

Brazilian Business Delegation Visits 5-7 Nov

Competition From Foreign Firms

92SM0121X Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 5 Nov 91 pp 1, 6

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi: "Pressure on Iran To Win Contracts"]

[Text] Tehran—A number of businessmen accompanying Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Rezek on his three-day mission to Iran expressed misgivings yesterday over the political pressure being exerted by strong competitors such as Italy to win contracts that have already been decided in favor of Brazilian firms or which, during previous visits, the Iranian Government has more or less expressed a desire to see carried out by Brazilian groups.

One such group is the Andrade Gutierrez construction firm, which, in a consortium with the Soviet Union's Technopromexport, has beaten Italy's Cogefar-Impresit bid to build the Karun III hydroelectric plant by a margin of \$60 million. Andrade Gutierrez, which has now "prequalified" for the project, is a candidate to carry out the civil projects, in which case its partner would supply the equipment for the electromechanical portion.

By the end of this month, the Iranian Government is to decide which groups will in fact be awarded the job. "We are entering the political sphere, and at this point, the Brazilian Government's support is essential," said Gilberto Grillo, an executive of Andrade Gutierrez, during a conversation the businessmen had with Rezek in Tehran before he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati. Velayati told the Brazilian minister of foreign affairs that Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti would be arriving here on the 17th to lobby Iran in favor of the Cogefar-Impresit consortium.

It is precisely for the purpose of giving a political push to the talks concerning various projects, many of which have been in the works since the middle of the last decade and were helped along by the visit by Minister of Infrastructure Joao Santana last July, that the minister of foreign affairs is in Tehran. He is not worried, however, by the outcome of the negotiations on Karun III. "Things have been moving along over the past two days," he said. There are two reasons for his optimism: he has been told by Velayati that Brazil is a priority partner, and he knows that the group of businessmen accompanying him "is constantly active."

The 2,000-megawatt hydroelectric power plant is an undertaking that will take seven years to complete. The civil projects alone will require \$700 million, \$350 million of which will be financed by the Bank of Brazil. It is possible that the Iranians will divide the project into "packages" and combine the activities of a group from one country with those of another group from a different

country. There are rumors that the Soviets, who are in partnership with Siemens of Germany, are not in a good position from the standpoint of the Iranians because of the economic crisis in the USSR and the resulting difficulty in financing the electromechanical equipment. The groups competing against Siemens-Technopromexport are Ansaldo-Gie of Italy and the Swedish-Swiss partnership of ASEA [expansion not given] and Brown-Boveri, which is competing on its own, with no partner in the area of civil construction.

The Zanini-Dedini consortium, which is interested in building seven sugar mills in Khuzestan, is not very frightened by foreign competition because Brazil is far and away more competitive than its industrialized partners in the area of sugar and alcohol production. Yesterday it received good news from the president of the national sugarcane company. He told Wolfgang Sauer, chairman of the consortium's board of directors; Maurilio Biagi, president of Zanini-Dedini; and diplomat Flavio Sapha, international adviser to the Brazilian Ministry of Infrastructure, that Iran would buy the equipment from Brazil. The problem now is the financing, which amounts to about \$500 million. Minister Santana has asked his colleague in the Ministry of Economy, Marcilio Marques Moreira, to study the possibility of Brazil's guaranteeing, at least during the bidding phase, the loan that the consortium will have to raise.

Brazil is competing with 13 foreign groups to build the seven sugar mills, but Biagi believes that Brazilian technology is unbeatable. Moreover, the Iranians have been buying sugar from Brazil since the start of the last decade, when they first held talks in Sao Paulo with the businessman who opened up that market, Jacques Eluf, president of the IAT [expansion not given] Trading Company.

At yesterday morning's meeting, it was agreed that the memorandum of understanding on the "Sugarcane" [published in English] project, which was signed by the two governments last June, will be turned into a bilateral protocol annexed to the official record of the meeting by the joint commission, over which Rezek and Velayati presided. "What that means is one more step forward," said Sapha.

Wolfgang Sauer is also working on the formation of another Brazilian consortium for setting up paper and cellulose mills that will use natural gas to process sugarcane bagasse into those products, which Iran imports in large quantities to meet the demand from its religious publishing industry. The bidding on that project should begin within three months.

Two other undertakings—the construction of 400,000 low-cost houses per year in 12 satellite towns surrounding Tehran for 5 million inhabitants and the supplying of cars for the capital's subway system—require a special political boost, as Minister of Foreign Affairs Rezek admitted yesterday. The subway falls under the direct jurisdiction of President Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani,

with whom the minister is to meet tomorrow. His agenda also includes a meeting with the president of the subway company.

But not everything is going well in trade relations with Iran, which is Brazil's largest supplier of petroleum. A document known as a side letter, which was signed during Joao Santana's visit in July, is not being complied with. The Iranians committed themselves to paying cash for imports from Brazil, a concession they made because Brazil began buying 180,000 barrels of petroleum per day, or 80,000 more than called for in the agreement of December 1990. It happens, however, that they are not complying with the terms of that document, because when the [Iranian] Central Bank receives the invoice from an Iranian importer, it treats it like one from any other country and does not pay Iran's suppliers for 360 days.

Yesterday a mission from the government was at the Central Bank to remind it of that commitment.

Businesswoman Marilia Valeska Popp, manager of international operations for the Tanac Corporation, which supplies vegetable tannin for leather tanning in Iran, was particularly concerned about the problem. Mario Fioretti, export manager for the Macion Corporation, which is trying to supply kits for industrial tractors, also spoke to Rezek about the time it takes to receive payment. The side letter was signed in July by Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and the National Iranian Oil Company.

Two Agreements Ready To Be Signed

Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Rezek will sign two agreements this Thursday: the first is a technical cooperation agreement between the Brazilian Postal and Telegraph Company (ECT) and its Iranian counterpart, while the second is a maritime transportation agreement to regularize traffic between the two countries, which currently takes place on a "spot" basis. The intention is to see to it that by making better use of ships, the freight cost will drop. The Confab Industrial Corporation, which supplies the Iranian petroleum company with welded pipe, will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of this new agreement in the field of shipping, predicts Flavio Sapha, international adviser to the Ministry of Infrastructure. But he says that Ripasa, which has just closed a deal to export paper, will also benefit. It will be possible to combine shipments of paper and steel pipe.

Today Rezek will visit the Central Bank museum and have lunch with his colleague, Ali Akbar Velayati. He will also go to the mausoleum where Ayatollah Khomeini is buried. Tomorrow the minister of foreign affairs will have a meeting with the president of Iran, Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and hold working meetings with Ministers Qolam Reza Aqazadeh-Khoi (petroleum), Namdar-Zangeneh (energy), and Isa Kalantari (agriculture). The minister will leave for Cairo, Egypt, on Thursday.

Prices Negotiated on Contracts

92SM0121Y Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 6 Nov 91 p 6

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi: "Brazil Negotiates Prices With Iranian Government To Close Contracts"]

[Text] Tehran—The project for building the Karun III hydroelectric plant seems to be the one on which Iran and Brazil are closest to signing a contract. Yesterday the international adviser to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Flavio Sapha, told this newspaper that a mission of financial experts would visit Brasilia within the next few weeks to study the details of \$700 million in financing for the civil engineering portion of the project. The Andrade Gutierrez construction firm is currently negotiating with the Iranian Government "inch by inch" concerning reductions in its bid price. The extent to which the firm has agreed to reduce its bid is not yet known. But in any event, if the contract is in fact awarded to Andrade Gutierrez, the Iranians will request financing for the entire amount, not just half (that is, about \$350 million).

The final decision on the project will be known by the end of this month. But sometime before then, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti will be in Tehran to persuade Iran to give the contract for the electromechanical portion of the plant to the Ansaldo-GIE group. It is considered quite probable that the civil projects will be awarded to the Brazilian construction firm and that the electromechanical portion will go to the Italian group. The Soviets (Technopromexport), who are associated with Andrade Gutierrez, are practically disqualified.

The vice minister of petroleum, Razavi Hedayatzadeh, told this newspaper that Brazil's chances for being considered for big projects in Iran are quite good, but he stressed that Brazilian firms must meet the required conditions: quality, price, deadlines, and especially financing. Besides being traditionally skillful negotiators, the Iranians are demanding financing because to rebuild their country, they will need \$24 billion annually, and that is almost double what they earn from petroleum sales.

Rodoyatzadeh, a shrewd negotiator who wanted to sell Brazil 200,000 barrels of petroleum per day when Minister of Infrastructure Joao Santana was in Tehran in July, is not accustomed to giving in. When Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] said it would never reach that volume, he finally accepted the figure of 180,000 barrels per day but included the provision that deliveries could vary by 10 percent up or down. Brazil currently buys 162,000 barrels per day, but under the two-year contract, which is renegotiable quarterly, it may import up to 198,000 barrels per day, according to information provided by Petrobras' sales manager, Mauricio Alvarenga.

The vice minister of petroleum regards the product he sells as being worth its weight in gold and not subject to

barter. Theoretically, both governments use the petroleum argument as a chip in negotiating big projects such as the supplying of 700 cars for the Tehran subway (which would benefit Mafersa), the construction of Karun III, and the exporting of seven sugar mills. But the businessmen know that in negotiations with Iran, the ritual is different than the one followed in Brazil: in the first place, the Iranians "prequalify" the competitors and, after classifying them, begin a game that always induces the firms to lower their prices. That procedure takes place during the technical evaluation phase, when they start comparing prices by unit and by "package."

Negotiations to reduce prices have been a constant in recent days. Yesterday Rezek met with the president of the Tehran Subway Company, Asghar Ebrahim, who informed him concerning the situation in the bidding to supply 700 subway cars—a deal that is of interest to Mafersa. The Iranian official said that at \$1.4 million per unit, the price bid by the Brazilian firm—which is in the process of being privatized—was too high compared to a bid of \$700,000 submitted by one of Brazil's competitors, which Rezek declined to name. It is known, however, that when the president of China visited here recently, he submitted a bid with "frighteningly low" prices, as one Brazilian diplomatic source put it. The Iranians want to give the contract for the 700 subway cars to only one group. Brazil's chief competitors are China, Czechoslovakia, and Korea. The president of the Tehran Subway Company told Rezek that although the prices bid by Brazil's competitors were low, he doubted the quality of the product. Because of that, he asked Brazil to quote a new price with a more palatable offer. Rezek feels that a new proposal may be submitted to the Iranian Government even before the company is privatized. A source in the Brazilian delegation believes, however, that if it were in the hands of the private sector, Mafersa could offer more competitive prices.

The decision on the subway cars will be announced in three weeks, the minister said. To help in the negotiations with Iran, the Brazilian Government decided to publish in yesterday's edition of the DIARIO OFICIAL a new tariff on imports of pistachios; it dropped the rate from 30 to 15 percent. The biggest producer is President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is meeting with Rezek today.

Businessmen in the housing area have managed to draw up a protocol stating that a Brazilian consortium with its Iranian counterpart will, under the supervision of the two governments, submit a pilot plan for initially constructing 10,000 out of a total of 100,000 units. In negotiations at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development yesterday morning, the terms did not favor the Brazilians initially because the vice minister did not want to commit himself to 10,000 units under the pilot plan. But the businessmen in the sector, headed by the national secretary of housing in Brazil's Ministry of Social Action, Ramon Arnus Filho, argued that without an initial goal of 10,000 units, the Brazilians

would have no incentive to continue the negotiations, which are expensive because they involve travel and planning expenses.

The problem now is the financing, without which the Brazilian model, which includes technology transfer, will lead nowhere because, as one businessman in the sector pointed out, there is nothing the Iranians do not already know about building low-cost housing, considering that they have cities over 2,000 years old, one example being Isfahan, the ancient Persian capital. Iran is looking for financing, and the bidder who satisfies that requirement will have the advantage. Rezek has announced that Brazil will seek a loan from the UN Development Program (UNDP) to qualify itself for the project involving new towns.

The minister of housing and urban planning, Seraj-ed Din Kazeruni, told Rezek that technology transfer was important to his country and agreed with the terms of the Brazilian proposal, which calls for the formation of an international joint venture between two consortiums, one Brazilian and the other Iranian. The Brazilian side would include 12 companies, including Ceprohob, a group consisting of more than 20 firms.

Arnus Filho commented that the next step would be to determine the size of the project. He calculates that 10,000 units will cost \$2 billion. However, he considers it more realistic initially to think about a contract for about \$200 million, and that will become a reality only if Brazil obtains financing.

Addendum To Explain Signed Agreement

The official record that Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Rezek will sign tomorrow with his counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati will include an addendum concerning implementation of a document known as a side letter that Mauricio Alvarenga, sales manager for Petrobras, and Iran's vice minister of petroleum, Razavi Hedayatzadeh, signed on 7 July of this year during the visit to Tehran by Minister of Infrastructure Joao Santana. Alvarenga told this newspaper that unless details are provided concerning the procedures by which the Iranian Government is promising to pay cash for imports from Brazil, Iranian importers will not know how to operate and, consequently, will be unable to comply with the side letter.

The problem of the side letter is worrying the Brazilian delegation because payment in 30 days—considered the same as cash—makes Brazilian products more competitive than those of competitors, who receive payment in 760 [as published] days, that being the time Iran usually takes to pay.

The explanation that Brazilian officials received from A.E. Allahyari, manager of the Department of Foreign Transactions at the Markazi Jamhuri Islami Iran Bank (Central Bank), was that he did not know the document was in effect because it had not been signed directly with the bank. The interpretation by official Brazilian sources is that the Iranian Government simply intended to delay

payments. Hedayatzadeh has said, however, that the side letter is in force and that it will be complied with.

Iran Presses for Lower Prices

92SM0121Z Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 7 Nov 91 p 3

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi: "Iran Pressures Brazil To Reduce Contract Prices"]

[Text] Tehran—By stating flatly that he was not willing to engage the services of Andrade Gutierrez if the construction firm did not lower its prices even further, Iran's minister of energy, Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh, caused an unexpected difficulty at yesterday morning's meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Rezek and the latter's party. This was the third of Rezek's four meetings and the toughest. The Iranian minister, using the classic negotiating method that consists of playing one competitor against the other, told Rezek and the executives of the construction firm—Gilberto Grillo and Jose Mauricio Bicalho Dias—that the Brazilian price was from \$6 million to \$7 million below that of the second competitor, the Italian consortium of Cogefar-Impresit, which, in his estimate, is at a higher technological level than the Brazilian firm and has experience throughout the world. For that reason, the Iranian Government feels that Andrade Gutierrez will have to lower its prices even further, something it has already done within the past two weeks in what Grillo calls a unilateral and substantial manner.

Zangeneh's demand, which was expressed at a political rather than a technical meeting, surprised diplomats and all the businessmen except the executives from Andrade Gutierrez, who said they were accustomed to Iranian tactics. "It was no big shock. The bidding is going well because we have the lowest prices, and the technical arrangements are favorable to us," commented Grillo, who did not say whether his firm would reduce its prices further and did not explain what strategy it would adopt, claiming that the matter was being kept confidential so as not to help the competitor.

As far as Andrade Gutierrez is concerned, the proof that Iran is interested in awarding the project to it is that a technical mission will visit Brasilia between the 9th and the 16th of this month. That delegation, consisting of representatives of Iran's Central Bank and the customer (the Iran Water and Power Resources Development Company), will meet with officials from the Central Bank, the Ministry of Economy, and the Bank of Brazil who are connected with the Export Financing Program (Proex). "That shows that we are in a good position," said Grillo.

Karun III with its 2,000 megawatts will cost \$1.5 billion, including \$700 million for the civil engineering portion (for which Andrade Gutierrez would be responsible) and \$800 million for whichever group wins the contract to supply the electromechanical equipment. Competing in

that area are Technopromexport of the USSR in association with Siemens of Germany and the Ansaldo-Gie consortium of Italy.

According to Grillo, the Brazilian Government has already made a firm offer of \$155 million. Proex will have to grant another \$137.9 million to complete the financing for Andrade Gutierrez. In addition, the firm will have to find another \$110 million on the international market for financing the Iranian portion of the contract. The remaining \$300 million will be financed in rials (the Iranian currency).

The Proex line of credit, which replaces Resolution No. 68, calls for normal payment at market rates. Another reason why Andrade Gutierrez feels that Tehran wants it to carry out the construction project is that the customer has asked it to absorb another Brazilian firm's share in the civil construction work. That has the effect of increasing the amount of financing it will have to obtain.

The Iranian Government has been giving indications that it prefers not to tie the export of 180,000 barrels of petroleum per day to the projects that Brazil wants to carry out. According to Grillo, however, Brazil is a political priority as far as Iran is concerned, especially since the latter can count on the transfer of Brazilian technology, a factor that places the firms in a favored position.

About a month ago, when Minister of Infrastructure Joao Santana was here for the second time, he reiterated the importance to Brazil of Karun III, the supplying of 700 cars by Mafersa for the Tehran subway, and the exporting of equipment for setting up seven sugar mills in Khuzestan.

The construction firm and the government anticipate that the civil engineering portion of the hydroelectric plant will be carried out by Brazil. The final decision will be known at the end of the month. According to Grillo, Rezek's presence in Tehran had a positive effect because it showed the government's commitment to construction of the power plant. The minister of foreign affairs said he was not building up his hopes too much and added that he was not surprised by Zangeneh's tough message.

Andrade Gutierrez rejects the argument by the minister of energy that its Italian competitor has better technology. "We have the same experience or more, because we did the concrete work at Itaipu and at other power plants," the construction firm executive said.

The Technopromexport/Siemens consortium is also engaged in tough political negotiations with the Iranians. Iran separated the civil engineering portion from the electromechanical portion to prevent the Brazilian construction firm from hiding behind the low bid submitted by the Soviet firm. Despite rumors that Iran is going to hire Ansaldo-Gie instead of the Technopromexport-Siemens consortium, Grillo still has faith in the original solution—that is, Andrade Gutierrez in partnership with that last-named consortium. If it wins the contract, the

construction firm will first sign a letter of intent, probably in December, and then sign the contract after obtaining the financing.

Contracts

Within the next few days, Braspetro will know whether the Iranian Government will award it the contract for onshore gas exploration in the North Kangan field, where construction work is estimated at \$66 million, that being the amount at which it was awarded the contract after reducing its price by \$6 million.

Rezek met with Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who asked the Brazilian businessmen to deal realistically with the problems related to the projects—Karun III, the Tehran subway, and others. He pointed out that Brazilian-Iranian cooperation on the Karun III hydroelectric plant would be “a symbolic landmark.”

The president surprised the Brazilian party by asking specific questions about Brazil. He wanted to know how many government employees there were and asked what percentage of them worked in education. He asked about the foreign debt, the balance of payments, the origin of the indebtedness, and negotiations with the IMF.

Rezek also met with Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh and Minister of Agriculture Isa Kalantari. He discussed the Karun III project with the former and Iran's plans to build sugar mills with Kalantari, who was in Brazil a few months ago.

While Rezek was making political contacts to help put Brazilian firms in a better position to win the Iranian contracts, a number of businessmen were closing and initiating deals. One of them was Mario Fioretti, export manager for the Maxion Corporation. He signed an agreement with the Iran Truck Manufacturing Company to supply 558 industrial tractor kits valued at \$6.8 million. In return, Maxion will import \$701,000 worth of spare parts from Iran for use in manufacturing tractors in Brazil. The kits are to be delivered within the next 180 days. This is Maxion's second contract in Iran.

Agreement Signing Day

Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Rezek is ending his visit to Iran this morning by signing a memorandum of agreement referring to the areas of cooperation covered during the second meeting by the joint commission, which was held last weekend. Iran declared its intention to export other products to Brazil besides just petroleum. The Brazilian Government expressed an interest in being included in the country's reconstruction projects. The businessmen were pleased by the inclusion in the final act of a statement that the Iranian Government would implement the side letter concerning cash payment for goods exported from Brazil. That side letter was signed in July 1991 by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], but has not been implemented.

The Brazilian Postal and Telegraph Company (ECT) and its counterpart signed a memorandum of agreement

covering cooperation in reorganizing the Iranian system. Also signed were protocols covering cooperation in the field of ocean transportation and joint participation by Brazilian and Iranian firms in a pilot project for building 10,000 housing units in the new towns being planned by Iran.

Rezek leaves today for Cairo, where he plans to discuss Brazilian participation in a number of projects, including construction of the Alexandria-Salum Railroad at a cost of \$500 million.

Brazil's Rezek Meets Agriculture, Energy Ministers

*LD0611221291 Tehran IRAN in English 1648 GMT
6 Nov 91*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—The Brazilian minister of external affairs, Francisco Rezek in a meeting with Iran's minister of agriculture, Isa Kalantari, today offered Brazil's expertise in research, training and exchange of data and technology needed to grow sugarcane.

Kalantari welcomed the offer and said the two countries could cooperate in the areas of irrigation, afforestation, plantations, and related issues.

In a separate meeting today with minister of energy, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, Rezek, expressed said [as received] Brazilian companies could cooperate with Iran in dam-building.

Rezek arrived here last Monday at the head of a high-ranking delegation.

Economic, Technical Agreement Signed With Brazil

*LD0711210291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
7 Nov 91*

[Text] Foreign affairs ministers of Iran and Brazil signed a memorandum of understanding for economic, technical, and commercial cooperation at the end of the visit of Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Francisco Rezek Jose.

According to the memorandum of understanding the two parties have declared their willingness to establish balance in their trading exchanges. They have also placed emphasis on the export and import of non-oil goods as well as mineral ores. Among topics agreed by the two countries, one is technical cooperation in such fields as mail, railways, urban underground transport, agriculture, housing, and exchange of experts and students. The two countries will also cooperate in the field of oil exploitation in the continental shelf as well as establishment of a sugar refinery in Khzestan.

Rezek, who left our country today seen off by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, told our reporter: The economic relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Brazil is such that the private sectors will be able to contribute effectively to the rapid expansion of

economic and trading exchanges between the two countries. On that issue, Veleyati, referring to the 1.5 billion dollar volume of trading exchanges between the two countries, expressed the hope that the volume of these exchanges would expand even further.

Improvement in Relations, Trade With Italy Reported

*AU2011102791 Rome ANSA in English 0811 GMT
19 Nov 91*

[Text] (ANSA) Esfahan, November 19—The long period of strained relations between Italy and Iran is over and trade, along with political and cultural cooperation, is expected to take off in the near future, according to Alberto Rossi, Italian undersecretary of foreign trade.

Rossi, here to inaugurate a major technology exhibit sponsored by the Italian Foreign Trade Institute (ICE), said small and medium-sized businesses are ready to penetrate the Iranian market after a slump during more than a decade of war in the region.

Political obstacles remain to the solution of two trade issues, Teheran's outstanding debts for construction at Bandar-e 'Abbas port and Iran's approval of a second weekly Rome-Teheran flight, but these should be resolved soon, he said.

Iran still owes Rome some 210 million dollars for work done at Bandar-e 'Abbas by the state-owned Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (IRI), work commissioned by the shah before his removal from power in 1979.

These issues should be finally resolved when the bilateral joint commission, originally scheduled to meet last September, gets together some time between January 20 and February 5, Rossi said.

An Alitalia delegation is expected in Tehran by the end of the month to discuss details with its Iranian counterparts from Iran Air, he added.

Shams Ardakani, Iranian deputy minister for mines and metals, repeatedly mentioned the ties of friendship binding Italy and Iran in his address at the inauguration ceremony.

"We will have to work," he said, "to remove the small marginal obstacles remaining and continue ahead with greater awareness and consciousness of the spirit of bilateral cooperation."

For his part Rossi said: "If there have been misunderstandings, as sometimes happens between countries of complex and varied cultures, these have encouraged us to deepen and strengthen further relations between our peoples." Overall, he continued, the time of "cool" relations seems to be over.

Rossi said his meetings here with government and central bank officials confirmed a distinct improvement in relations. He mentioned trade figures showing Italy is now Iran's third leading supplier. Trade grew 85 percent in the first eight months of this year and 45 percent compared to the same period last year, he said.

Although Iran is now Italy's second leading oil supplier after Libya, the trade balance this year is expected to be in Italy's favor for the first time ever by about 104 million dollars.

Companies represented at the technology fair are mostly publicly owned but Rossi said he expects a growing presence here by small- and medium-sized businesses.

ICE financed two thirds of the fair, which cost about 1.2 million dollars, while the remaining funds came from exhibitors such as state-owned IRI, ENI, EFIM, and ENEL.

It will remain open until November 29.

Regional Affairs

Former Oil Minister's Family Appeals for His Release

*92AS0248A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 5 Nov 91 p 1*

[Text] Tehran (IRNA): The family of former Iranian oil minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan Sunday appealed to international forums to help obtain his release from Iraqi imprisonment.

Mrs. Tondguyan speaking to IRNA on the 11th anniversary of her husband's capture by invading Iraqi troops (3 November), rejected Iraqi claims that the Iranian minister committed suicide during captivity, saying eyewitness accounts confirmed that he is still languishing in Baathist dungeons.

"In Kuwait last week, eyewitnesses told me that they had seen my husband, and their description perfectly matched his identity," she said.

Ja'far Tondguyan also ruled out the suicide story adding such a cowardly act is entirely against the values his committed son stood for.

"Judging from reports and evidences my son is alive, and I hope international forums would follow up the case without ambiguity and provide us with Mohammad Javad's actual state," he added.

The then Iranian oil minister and two of his deputies were captured by Iraqi troops on the Abadan road in the early months of the imposed war, while studying safety measures at oil installations in the southwestern Khuzestan Province.

Mohammad Javad Tondguyan is married and has four children.

In related news, an informed source of Iran's POWs department also dismissed the story of Tondguyan's alleged suicide, and rejected the Iraqi claims as "unacceptable."

He said the lack of any authentic document, such things as a picture of his body, over the past years coupled with recent revelations to the contrary, prove the falsity of Iraqi claims.

According to an agreement with the Iraqis, the case of Tondguyan and the remaining Iranian POWs in Iraq as well as the issue of those missing in action, will be discussed in a special committee in Geneva.

SALAM Reviews Conference Gains; 'Major Victory' for Iran

*NC1211131591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 24 Oct 91
p 12*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Gains of the Conference for the Support of the Islamic Revolution in Palestine"]

[Text] The International Conference for the Support of the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine [ICSIRPP] concluded yesterday, adopting an historic resolution. Holding such a conference in the current Middle East situation, swathed in a mist of despondency, merits attention, and appreciation of the sponsors, particularly the Islamic Majles.

Since the conference was attended by many personalities, combatant groups and parliamentary and government delegations from Islamic countries, it may be said that staging it was unique, attaining noteworthy gains with its activities and debates as follows:

1. The session provided the opportunity for bringing together personalities and combatant groups, paving the way for mutual consultations for becoming acquainted with one another's stances for a unified effort against the moves of the United States and the enemies of Islam.
2. The congregation of all Palestinian groups brought home that even now—and this is how it should be—there can be unity and solidarity in the struggle against the Zionist regime, making the United States and Israel aware that even now there is a possibility of unity and solidarity against them.
3. The coming together of parliamentary delegations of Islamic countries, combatant groups, and individuals proved to the world that even now there is a possibility of consensus among Islamic governments, combatant groups, and individuals on the issue of Palestine.
4. On the basis of reports this conference reflected well in the Arab countries, though the Western media strove to prevent any extensive feedback. For the Islamic Republic of Iran, the effect of these sessions on the region's Muslim people, not on Western countries, was important, and to a great extent such success was attained.
5. This session succeeded in eliminating the poisoning atmosphere, prevailing in the region after the Persian Gulf war, that the United States was the director of Middle East issues and there was nothing which could counteract this trend or display strength facing it. God willing, similar actions will erase such fears from people's minds.
6. The utter despondency and pessimism engulfing Palestinian groups (even combatants), created by moves

toward the so-called Middle East conference, was mitigated to a great extent and hope could be seen on the faces of the members of these groups during the session. Inspiring hope among these groups will motivate them to increase activity in the future.

7. This conference proved to the West, especially the United States, that they should discard the chimerical notion that there was no opposition on Middle East issues, drawing their attention to the existence of a unified move against them in the region.

8. It provided a timely opportunity for combatant Palestinian groups to hold discussions and consultations and take decisions on practical combat. This is one of the more important conference gains and, God willing, these groups will attain more dazzling successes.

9. The essence of the conference at a time when no one in the region had the courage to embark on such a task was that it was a major victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran, proving to the United States and the West that Iran continues its determination to uphold Palestinian aspirations.

Velayati: Afghanistan Entering 'New, Sensitive Stage'

LD0911204991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Members of the Supreme Council for the Supervision of the Central Council and the Representative Council of Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party who are based in Iran met and conferred with 'Ali Akbar Velayati today. In the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fayyaz, secretary of the Islamic Unity Party's Representative Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: We believe that even though Afghanistan's Islamic movement is situated in a particular geographical region, it nonetheless belongs to the entire world of Islam and to the world's Muslims. He also presented a report about the holding of the Islamic Unity Party's great congress in the very difficult conditions existing inside Afghanistan. Velayati then pointed out that Afghanistan has entered a new and sensitive stage and stressed the need for the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to remain vigilant.

Algeria's Bendjedid Responds to Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message

*NC1711095591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
17 Nov 91*

[Text] A message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was conveyed to the Algerian president by our deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs, who met President Chadli Bendjedid. The Algerian president expressed his thanks for the message from the Iranian president and said he hopes that at the Dakar meeting of the heads of members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] he will be able to discuss important international developments with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He added: The meeting will provide a suitable opportunity to discuss bilateral ties in the economic, political, and cultural field.

Commentary on Economic Cooperation With India

BK1911122191 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Nov 91

[M.K. Roy Commentary]

[Text] Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, minister for external affairs, visited Tehran from the ninth to the 12th of November 1991 for the fifth session of the joint commission. During his visit, he held a number of high-level meetings with Iranian leaders and was received by His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the 11th of November 1991. He held two sessions of talks with his counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and also held talks with Iranian ministers of construction jihad and commerce. During these talks, both sides underlined their firm desire to move comprehensively forward in expanding areas of bilateral cooperation and exchanges for mutual benefit. Views were also exchanged on major regional and international issues. Discussions revealed a broad identity of view on all these areas of common concern. Closer cooperation in the context of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] and the need for more frequent high-level contacts was underlined by the two sides. A wide-ranging agenda of bilateral cooperation in the fields of culture, consular, scientific and technology, trade and industry was discussed during the joint commission's meetings and substantial progress was made in opening a new chapter of more intense and fruitful exchanges.

A number of significant agreements were concluded during the joint commission's session. These included a new executive program of cultural and scientific cooperation for the years 1992 to 1994. A memorandum of understanding on consular matters facilitating travel by businessmen and nationals of the two countries and a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of agriculture. The Iranian side welcomed the participation of Indian companies in Iran's reconstruction program and major projects in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ground for the present relations between India and Iran was provided only after India's independence when the first ever treaty of commerce and navigation was signed in 1954. It was the basis of all other agreements which were later signed in 1961, 1963, and 1968. The following year an India-Iran joint commission was formed. In 1974, the two countries entered into an agreement through which Iran agreed to provide India \$630 million for the construction of the Kudremukh iron ore complex in India and also agreed to buy back 150 million tons of pellets. In 1983, a new India-Iran joint commission was formed. This was followed by the visit of Mr. (Behsad Nawabi), the minister for heavy industries of the Islamic Republic of Iran to India in December 1987. He had brought with him a draft

framework for a joint industrial commission. India declared a three-day state mourning in the wake of the sad demise of the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni in June 1989 and then the then Indian prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, visited the Indian Embassy in New Delhi to sign the condolence book. The Rajya Sabha of the Indian parliament adjourned on July 18th, 1989 without transacting any business after paying homage to Ayatollah Khomeyni. On the first of August last year, the then secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Gopi Arora, visited Iran and an agreement was signed through which all long-standing issues pertaining to Kudremukh was solved to the mutual satisfaction of both Iran and India. In September last year, a memorandum of understanding was signed in New Delhi under which the two countries agreed to clear diplomatic, official, and business visas in three to four weeks. India agreed to provide consular access to the Iranians detained in Indian jails. Iran also made commitment to renew resident visas and work permits for Indians working in Iran.

India imports crude oil, sulphur, ammonia and other chemicals, fresh and dried fruits, paints, varnishes, medical pharmaceutical products. India's major exports to Iran are tea, iron and steel, cotton fabrics, electrical goods, motor parts and spices. Presently more than 2,000 Indian doctors and about 200 engineers are working in Iran, while a large number of Iranian students are studying in Indian universities and educational institutions. Kudremukh iron ore complex, Iran-Hind Shipping Company, Madras Refinery and Madras Fertilizers are some India-Iran ventures. Iran has proposed an Asian gas pipeline project, which if completed, would further consolidate the ties between the two countries.

Israeli Credentials Protested at UNIDO Session

LD2011212991 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 20, IRNA—The Iranian delegation attending the current fourth session of the general conference of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) here has lodged a strong protest over credentials to the Zionist regime because of its violations of human rights and norms of international law.

In a note to president of the general conference Lopez Cossio the delegation cited flagrant violation by Israel of Paragraph C of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter by disregarding the independence and territorial integrity of the Palestinian people.

In light of the non-recognition by the United Nations of seizure of Jerusalem and other territories by the occupying regime, its persistent refusal to implement United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as well as its resorting to violence in response to the intifada, the issuance of credentials to Israel is "unlawful and unacceptable," said the note.

The occupying regime "cannot be a lawful member of UNIDO and accordingly must be expelled from this

organization as in the case of the racist regime of South Africa which due to its apartheid policy was expelled from the United Nations," added the note.

A spokesman for the Iranian delegation to UNIDO told IRNA Tuesday that the note has been referred to the credentials committee of the conference.

Iran Air Resumes Flights to Kuwait

*LD1811154491 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT
18 Nov 91*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran-Kuwait flights resumed after 11 years with the landing of the Iran Air 747 passenger plane in Kuwait last Saturday, an Iran Air spokesman said here today. The aircraft returned the same afternoon with Iran-bound passengers, he added. The weekly flight to Kuwait will leave Tehran on Saturday mornings and return the same afternoon, said the spokesman.

Omani Minister Comments on Security Arrangements

*LD0711223491 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT
7 Nov 91*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Omani Ambassador here 'Abd-al-'Alim al-Mustahil says "security in the region without Iran is unthinkable."

In an interview with TEHRAN TIMES published today, Ambassador al-Mustahil said: "Iran cannot be excluded from any security arrangement which can guarantee real security."

He hailed the role Iran played during the Persian Gulf crisis and said, "the administration of President ('Ali Akbar Hashemi-) Rafsanjani has adopted a wise policy which had been appreciated not only by the regional countries but by the entire world also."

The ambassador added, "my personal view is that peaceful Iran is a must for the peace of the entire region," and stressed that Iran's role "is essential" for the security of the region .

On ties between the two countries, the Omani ambassador told the daily, "ties between Muscat and Tehran are excellent and exemplary for all other regional countries."

On commercial ties, he noted, relations between the two countries were satisfactory and added that Irano-Omani joint ministerial commission will meet in Muscat early next year.

Meanwhile, an agreement on tourism and civil aviation was due to be signed and after that "the flag carriers of the two countries will fly between Tehran and Muscat."

On industrial cooperation Ambassador al-Mustahil said Oman's Zubayr enterprise had already supplied station wagons to Iran which are being used by the Mubarakkeh steel mill in Isfahan.

Pakistani-Israeli Collusion in Arms Supply Noted

*BK1511092091 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 15 Nov 91*

[Text] Pakistan is reported to have collaborated with Israel in the clandestine supply of U.S. arms to Iran and in providing military training to Afghan rebels during General Ziaul Haq's rule. Disclosing this, an English weekly in Islamabad says its report is based on a testimony of Mr. ('Ali Ben Menhashi) who served for over 10 years in the external relations department of the Israeli defense force. He also participated in Israel's most sensitive interagency intelligence committee during the 1980's. The disclosure also reveals that Pakistan acted as a secret backdoor for the supply of arms to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war by exploiting the United States' \$2-billion supply network of weapons and funds meant for the Afghan rebels.

Turkish Warning Against Wearing Islamic Headdress Reported

*NC2011155691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 19 Nov 91*

[Text] The Turkish ground forces' command headquarters has disclosed that military officers whose wives wear Islamic headdress will be persecuted. IRNA has reported from Ankara that the command headquarters' warning came after hundreds of air force officers and noncommissioned officers were discharged for their religious activities.

Criticizing the warning, Istanbul-based ZAMAN said today that it has created a significant reaction in the military units.

Mazandaran-Turkmenistan Border To Open

*92AS0248D Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 11 Nov 91 p 6*

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Noshahr (Mazandaran) (IRNA): The 'Marzpol' border point in 'Incheh Boroun' region, 70 kms north of Gonabad town will be formally opened on 22 November to border dwellers for trade between Mazandaran Province and the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan. Mazandaran Governor-General Mr. Mofidi told IRNA last night that according to a recent agreement, people on either side of the border, in possession of the required entry permit, can travel to the other country and engage in trade within a radius not exceeding 45 kms.

A transit lounge, a border post for law enforcement forces, rest houses and other facilities for cross-border travellers have been constructed in Marzpol, he said.

A similar arrangement for cross border-travel was made earlier between the Iranian provinces of West and East Azarbaijan and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan on the western side of the Caspian Sea.

Present day Turkmenistan, bordered by the Caspian on the east and the River Oxus on the north, is made up of

historical Khwarezm and greater Khorasan—areas rich in Islamic heritage, which along with transoxiana played an important role in the development of Persian poetry and literature.

Khorasan, Soviet Turkmenistan Discuss Relations

*LD111180991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
11 Nov 91*

[Text] The expansion of economic, cultural, and tourist trade relations as well as border crossing between the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan and the Province of Khorasan were reviewed in a meeting today in Bajgiran between two high-level delegations from Khorasan and the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan.

At this meeting it was decided that the members of the delegations should follow up, in separate committees, issues of interest to both sides in various fields with a view to achieving results. The deputy prime minister of Soviet Turkmenistan headed that republic's delegation.

Soviets To Hold Tehran Air, Space Exhibition

*LD0911154791 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT
9 Nov 91*

[Text] Dubayy, Nov. 9, IRNA—The Soviet Union will soon hold an exclusive aviation and space technology exhibition in Tehran, the manager of the Soviet Pavilion at the Dubayy 91 International Defence Show (ended November 7) has told IRNA.

According to Aleksandr Vitov, 15 Soviet fighter planes from among those displayed at Dubayy will be displayed in Tehran.

“This would be a chance for Iranian experts to get familiar with Soviet aviation and space technology, and would help strengthen Irano-Soviet cooperation in various areas,” he added.

Vitov was hopeful that the exclusive exhibition would result in the sale of some Soviet aircraft to Iran.

“Talks are underway with Iranian officials for determining a date for the exhibition in Tehran, and the planes will soon be transferred from here to Tehran,” he said.

Some 400 producers of military hardware from 44 countries displayed their latest at the Dubayy show, held November 3-7.

Soviet Aircraft Arrive for Aviation-Space Exhibition

*LD1211191191 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT
12 Nov 91*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—Several Soviet planes landed at Mehrabad Airport here today in time for an exclusive aviation-space technology exhibition to start tomorrow.

The planes were among those Soviet-made aircraft which were on display at the Dubayy 91 International Defence Show, which wound up on November 7.

In what will be the first Soviet aviation exhibit in the Islamic republic, Soviet experts will provide visitors with information on the aircraft. The exhibit will be open to public till next Monday.

Soviet Aviation Technology Exhibition Ends in Tehran

*LD1711095291 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT
17 Nov 91*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—The first exclusive Soviet aviation technology exhibition in Tehran ended Saturday after being visited by some 300,000 people.

A collection of 13 advanced Soviet military and transport aircraft including MiG-29 and MiG-31 single-seat and double seat interceptors and counter-air fighters, Sukhoi 24 attack aircraft, Sukhoi 25 and Sukhoi 27 single-seat and double-seat fighter bombers, Antonov 124 heavy freight transport, Ilyushin 76 passenger aircraft and MIL 28 and MIL 34 combat helicopters were displayed at the exhibition site of the Defence Ministry on Tehran-Karaj road.

During the four-day exhibition visitors were able to become acquainted with the advanced technology employed in the Soviet-made aircraft, head of the air show center Brigadier General Mahmud Basiriyan said.

He expressed hope that similar exhibitions would be held in Tehran in future with the aim to familiarize the military experts and the public with the latest in aircraft industry.

Basiriyan regretted that duration of the exhibition was short as a result of which many of those arriving from other cities failed to visit it.

The exhibition was held upon a proposal by the Islamic Republic which was accepted by the Soviet authorities. The displayed planes had already been shown in Dubayy, United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, the super light 150-kg ‘Sanjaqak’ plane was displayed for the first time at the exhibition, he said.

The rls.[rials]21.500 million aircraft is manufactured by the defence industries organization in cooperation with Germany and can be purchased by every legal and real person and flown by anyone with a ppl [private pilot's] licence, the official added.

Internal Affairs

ABRAR on Need for Worldwide Islamic Communications Network

*NC1211175091 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Oct 91
pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: “The World of Islam and a Common Means of Joint Communications”]

[Excerpts] We live in an era of mass communications—in which throughout every 24 hours people's eyes and ears are bombarded by political, social, scientific, cultural and economic news from Western propaganda channels. But Islam, with a population of more than 1 billion from Indonesia and Malaysia to Algeria and Morocco, and a common religion, is deprived of a common means of communication.

At the International Conference for the Support of the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine everything was discussed, a common armed force, joint economy, joint political decisions and so on to, but the most important, a joint means of communication, was not mentioned. Can the Muslim Iranian nation obtain news about events in other Islamic countries from channels other than imperialist news channels? Do we know, for example, what the Muslims of Albania are doing and what their problems were and are? Can we obtain news about our neighboring countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Turkey, and the Persian Gulf countries from some reliable channels? The answer to these questions and others like them is no.

It would not be inappropriate to glance at international joint communications, in all of which Eastern and Western imperialism is present. The world's major imperialist countries—in addition to their official and well-known means of communication—are also active in the following international groups: The International Institute of Journalism, Union of African Journalists, The Radio and Television Organization on the Continent of America, The Asian Broadcasting Union, The Arab

Broadcasting Union; The International Radio and Television Organizations, and The European Broadcasting Union.

Is the world of Islam, of which the Islamic Republic of Iran claims to be the pioneer of Islamic actions, endowed with such a means of joint communication?

Earlier, the channels of dubious governments were initiated under the name of Islam, but since they were merely one-sided, propaganda mouthpieces of their respective governments, rightly, they did not elicit any country's Muslim approval.

Islam needs a joint newspaper or publication which should be disseminated in various languages in all Muslim countries. This is possible. Let us take the example of the American "TIME" magazine: It is published all over the world, has a circulation of 13,000 to 3,500,000, and carries regional and international news. [passage omitted]

TIME started circulating decades ago when there was no facsimile or satellite! Now that every country can benefit from these facilities, an international Islamic newspaper or magazine is not so unattainable. For how long must we, the world's Muslims, be informed about each other by the channels of the ASSOCIATED PRESS, REUTER, AFP, TASS, and XINHUA, or magazines such as TIME, NEWSWEEK, LE MONDE, L'EXPRESS, DER SPIEGEL, and so on?

We should make the effort. We have stated the problem. The practical means demands the collaboration and cooperation of our journalist Iranian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Turkish, Pakistani, Lebanese and other friends.

Steel, Aluminum, Copper Production Increased

92AS0129A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Oct 91 p 15

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—In the first half of the current year production in some of the nation's metal production facilities has grown to almost double the amount during the same period last year.

The minister of mines and metals announced the quantity of this ministry's metal production in the first six months of the year 1370 [21 March-22 September 1991].

A study of these statistics shows that in the first six months of the current year production of steel ingot and slab reached 222,000 tons at the Ahvaz Steel Complex Corporation, which is 86 percent more than the same period last year. The total production of (marketable) goods at the Esfahan and National Industrial Steel Group of Iran foundries reached more than 12.91 million tons, which shows growth of 85 percent over the same period last year. The Esfahan foundry alone shows more than a 100-percent increase by comparison.

The Aluminum Production Group of the Iran Aluminum Corporation produced 27,250 tons of molten aluminum in the first six months of the current year, which is 21 percent more than the same period of 1369 [21 March-22 September 1990]. Production of cast aluminum goods in the first six months of the current year also increased 28 percent over the same period last year, to 57,594 tons.

The statistics also show increased copper production. In the copper extraction sector the statistics show that in the first six months of the current year, more than 8.823 million tons of copper ore were extracted, which is 19 percent more than the same period last year. In this sector, production of concentrated copper and molybdenum increased 36 percent compared to the same period last year, reaching a total production of 136,641 tons. The production of spun copper reached 19,576 tons in the first six months of the current year, and this is also a 14-percent increase over the same period last year.

Increase in Steel Production Noted

*NC0212111991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT
2 Dec 91*

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. Yesterday the ministry of mines and metals reported a 94-percent increase in production at the Esfahan Steel Mill. This report, which shows steel production during the first eight months of the year [ending 21 November 1991] to be 1.306 million tons, illustrates the plants' capability to achieve high nominal output.

The Esfahan Steel Mill became operational on the basis of an Iranian-Soviet agreement in the early seventies. This plant has several production branches and affiliated

units. The tall furnaces and the various rolling plants of this complex have been able to pave the way for the production of steel and cast iron for domestic use.

Today steel industries are considered basic infrastructural industries necessary for the creation of other industries. The Soviet Union is the world's first and largest producer of iron ore and steel in the world. It is followed by Japan, the United States, China, and Germany as the world's largest steel producers. In view of its iron ore deposits, our country also enjoys a promising position. Thus, with the efficient use of advanced technology, steel production is expected to rise from 1.85 million tons to 5.4 million tons during the five-year plan for economic progress.

By achieving its nominal output capacity—something that was not done during the past decade—the Esfahan Steel Mill opens a bright horizon in the beginning of the five-year plan. It is necessary to note that the losses incurred by the Esfahan Steel Mill's nonproduction during the past decade have been estimated at \$2.7 billion.

The products manufactured by this plant—cast iron, iron rods, round rods, metal wire, and steel brackets and frames—are not only able to meet the people's needs in construction and industries, but are also considered necessary to many of the country's industries. An increase in the output of these products plays an important role in the country's reconstruction and in the reduction of prices.

Currently the country's need for steel products is more than 6 million tons and it is hoped that with the cooperation of foreign companies, the output of the Esfahan Steel Mill can reach 4 million tons per year. Making the country's coal and iron ore reserves operational within a timetable can pave the way for a reduction in imports of the raw materials needed by the steel factories. This can be achieved if suitable technology is used and if the extraction expenditures are logical; this is of great importance as far as an increase in employment and the domestic gross national product and a decrease in inflation are concerned.

By putting forth concrete plans for using the country's identified mines, the Ministry of Mines and Metals is taking some steps, including training experts in universities, importing advanced technology in plants, carrying out geological research, and improving production.

Everyone is aware of the importance of iron ore and of its steel by-products as far as the country's reconstruction is concerned. Therefore the government's extensive focus on how to further accelerate fulfilling plans can effectively assist in the country's reconstruction. The country's resources are extremely rich and it is hoped that with the new steps other untapped resources can be used in the best way so that the country's constantly increasing needs in various fields are met.

Two Petrochemical Plants To Be Built in Kerman*LD0212145191 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT
2 Dec 91*

[Text] Kerman, Dec. 2, IRNA—The National Iranian Petrochemicals Company is to build two petrochemical plants in this southeastern Iranian city, announced the governor-general's office here today.

It said once completed the plants will produce 25,000 tons of TDI (tolylene di-isocyanate), 24,000 tons of acetic acid, 10,000 tons of mono-chloroacetic acid, and 30,000 tons of aniline, the latter used for the manufacture of dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals, plastic and many other products.

The two projects involve a capital expenditure of about rls [rials] 250,000 million, of which dlr 300 million will be provided at the government competitive rate.

The office said a number of national and international contractors have bid to contract the projects and that their proposals are currently being studied.

Mashhad Computer Complex Construction Started*92AS0129D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Oct 91 p 9*

[Text] With credit of 42 billion rials, construction has begun on the large complex for building heavy computerized equipment, with 400,000 square meters of foundation area on a 200-hectare site in the city of Mashhad.

The IRNA reports that this complex is being built by the Ministry of Heavy Industries based on a Majles bill, and will include 12 factories producing computerized presses and milling machines (S.N.S.)

With the use of this complex, in addition to employing 3,500 specialists and skilled and semiskilled personnel, 1,500 computerized heavy machines of various kinds will be produced each year and \$260 million will be saved annually.

To begin operations on this huge project, eight billion rials credit were allocated, and phase one will go into service by the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1993]. At this complex, computer specialist training sites will be established, along with a 50-bed hospital, a 120-room hotel, and exercise fields.

Official Notes Lack of Silos for Grain Storage*92AS0129B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Oct 91 p 15*

[Text] Khorramabad—IRNA—The procurement, purchase, and production of livestock feed is faced with problems because of the lack of storage complexes in which to keep it.

According to the IRNA, this was discussed last night at a meeting of the Lorestan Province Agricultural Council by Engineer Dashti, deputy director for production of the National Feed Procurement, Production, and Distribution Company.

He said: We have no credit limitations on the purchase of barley and wheat that meet standards. This company's only problem is the lack of silo storage complexes for the feed.

He said: Currently the capacity of this company's warehouses is less than 150,000 tons, and we were obliged to rent enough storage to bring the capacity of these warehouses up to 300,000 tons nationally.

He added: To procure the nation's feed, this year the Economic Council is authorized to purchase 800,000 tons of barley and wheat within standards, but this is not possible because of the lack of storage space.

Work Begins on Tabriz Water Supply Project*LD1411130791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
14 Nov 91*

[Text] Coinciding with the commissioning of the implementation work on the country's biggest water transfer project, the East Azerbaijan prefabricated pipeline production plant was inaugurated today.

[Unidentified correspondent] This is one of the biggest water supply projects in the world, designed to purify the Zarrin River water and transfer it to the city of Tabriz. The Energy Ministry will lay 175 km of pipelines in five years. Using prefabricated reinforced concrete pipes of 1.8 and 2 meters in diameter, 10 cubic meters of water will be transferred per second. The project also needs five pumping stations, and 13 water storage tanks with a capacity of 200,000 cubic meters.

The initial credit allocated for the implementation of the Tabriz water transfer project amounts to 100 billion rials. The project will be carried out in two phases to provide drinking water for the city of Tabriz and nearby towns for the next 20 years.

Simultaneous with the work on the water transfer project, the Azar Shahr prefabricated pipe production plant was inaugurated. This plant is capable of producing 60 km of reinforced concrete pipes of 1.8 and 2 meters in diameter annually.

The establishment of the Azar Shahr reinforced concrete pipe production plant has cost 60 billion rials.

During the plant inauguration ceremony, Ayatollah Malakuti, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult [Khamene'i] in Azerbaijan; Engineer Zangeneh, the energy minister; the governor general of East Azerbaijan; and a number of officials of that province were present.

Customs Statistics for First Half of Current Year*LD1311203491 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT
13 Nov 91*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Exports rose by a record 103 percent during the first seven months of the current calendar year (started March 21), earning the country rials 91.3 billion. According to a customs report released here Wednesday, the seven month period saw

some 15.1 million tons of goods enter the country through the various customs offices, an increase of 17.42 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

It said the number of passengers entering Iran by air, land and sea in the said period totalled 995,615 including 357,710 foreigners. At the same, it added, 933,238 persons including 261,483 foreigners travelled out of Iran. The report put the number of vehicles entering the country in the 7-month period at 3,923 cars and 1,515 buses, while 3,165 cars and 1,662 buses left the Iranian borders.

Customs Revenue Increases in Current Year

LD1311202891 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Iran's customs revenues amounted to 292 billion rials during the first six months of the current year registering an increase of 218 percent compared with the same period last year. The increase in the country's customs revenues over the budget forecast during the first seven months of the current year amounts to a figure of 133 billion rials.

Provision of necessary facilities in goods clearance, especially reducing clearance formalities to the minimum in the case of industrial raw materials for government-owned manufacturing plants and plants under government protection, has been responsible for speeding up the production of industrial goods, resulting in a lowering of the rate of inflation in these goods. It has also led to an increase in the customs revenues.

Ports Record 17-Percent Increase Between Mar-Oct

LD1411101591 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—About 10.379 million tons of goods were unloaded at various ports of Iran between March 20-October 22 that is 8.877 million tons or 17 percent more than the same period in the previous year.

During the same period 540,249 trips by vans and trucks, and 20,192 railway trips were made to and from those ports for carrying imported goods on inland destinations in Iran, that is 424,236 trips or 27 percent more than it was during the same period in 1990.

An official of the Iranian ports and shipping organization said here Thursday that by October 22 the total imported goods at the ports awaiting re-loading to inland destinations was 657,000 tons, down by 1.303 million tons that is 27 percent as compared to the 1990.

During March 21-October 22 about 2.310 million tons of imported petroleum products including petrol, kerosene, gasoil, motor oil and others were re-loaded from the Iranian ports that is 1.873 million tons or 23 percent higher than in 1990.

The ports and shipping official of Iran added that during the period 1.268 million tons of goods were loaded at the Iranian ports for shipment to foreign destinations, that is 726,000 tons or 75 percent higher than it was in the same period in 1990.

Re-loading of imported goods to inland destinations during the period was 10.550 million tons up by 8.172 million tons that is 29 percent as compared to the same period in 1990.

Khorranshahr Bridge Opens to Traffic

92AS0248C Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 6 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] Ahvaz, Kuzestan Province, (IRNA): Vice-president for executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh visited Abadan airport near here and a few other spots including the Khorranshahr Bridge which became ready for operation at the end of its post-war rehabilitation Monday.

The rebuilding of the bridge which has a clearance of 474 meters and a width of 11 meters was a principal project of the Roads and Transportation Ministry involving a capital investment of Rials 2,500,000 million.

Mirzadeh was accompanied in his visit by Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Saeedi-Kya and governor general of the province Mohammad Hassan Tavalaei and also a group of the provincial officials.

The Iranian vice president visited various parts of the airport including its runway, control tower, lobbies, and administrative sections.

The Abadan airport was badly damaged during the Iraqi-imposed war with Iran (1980-88), but it is expected to be ready for domestic flights by 21 November, and for international flights on 11 February, 1992 the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

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